BLOODY JUNKIE

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RAW Provision & Translation: Yukihito
Proofread: Anachorism, Keeshtihn, Ninjamuffin
Clean & Redraw: Maiu, Shoujo Kaguya

Typeset: Kaito
Quality Check: Kaito, Yukihito

HAVE YOU SEEN THAT TELEVISION DRAMA RECENTLY, RYOKO..?

A LITTLE THING THE MAIN CHARACTER DID HURT HER FRIEND A LOT

THAT FRIEND WOULDN'T FORGIVE THE MAIN CHARACTER, NO MATTER WHAT.

SO SHE KEPT ON THINKING AND DID SOMETHING

scene 5 : The Crowd of Rabbits

YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE UP FOR THINGS IN THE SAME WAY.

WILL YOU

HANG YOURSELF?

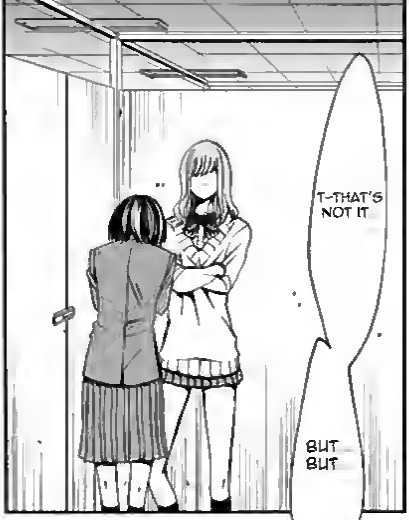
MIYOSHI RECEIVES A TERRIBLE PUNISHMENT...

AND I'M UNABLE TO SPEAK PROPERLY.
YOU'RE TELLING ME TO DIE...?
MY THROAT
CLOSES UP
YOU'RE...

I THINK I CAN FORGIVE YOU IF YOU FEEL THE SAME WAY WHEN YOU APOLOGISE
smile
OF COURSE NOT. I'LL LET YOU DOWN BEFORE THAT
BUT THE MAIN CHARACTER OF THE SHOW DID THAT BECAUSE SHE REALLY WANTED TO BE FORGIVEN

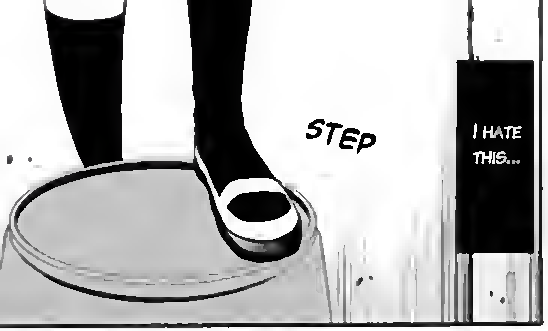
ARE YOU SAYING YOU CAN'T DO IT?
BUT...

IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!
IT'S NOT! WAIT, RINA-CHAN!


T-THAT'S NOT IT
BUT BUT

I SEE SO YOU'RE NOT GOING TO REFLECT ON WHAT YOU DID

GRAB


STEP
I HATE THIS...

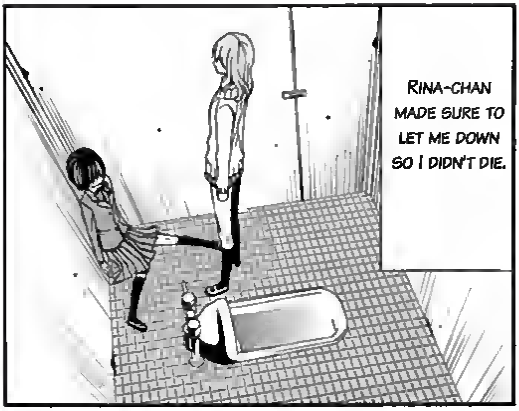
I'M SCARED...
I'M SCARED.

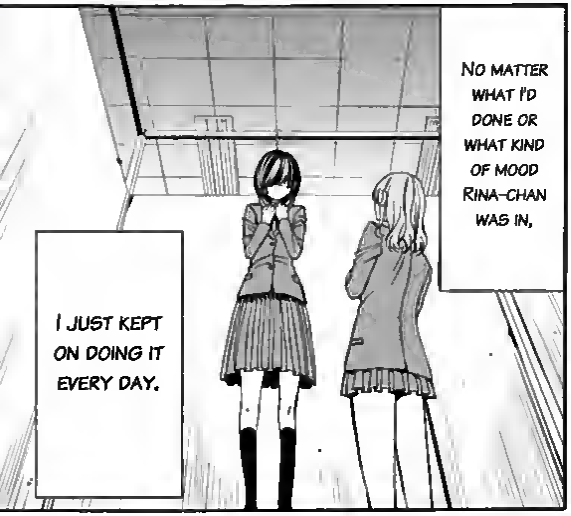
I DON'T WANT TO DIE...!
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
TREMBLE

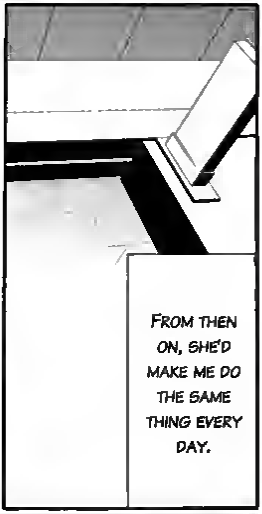
THEN HURRY UP AND DO IT, YOU LOSER!

SHE REALLY WILL FORGIVE ME IF I DO THIS, RIGHT...?
SHE'LL MAKE SURE TO SAVE ME, WON'T SHE...?!
UH...
UGHHHH!
CREAK

But that was just the beginning.







I was always afraid.

The rope that had been prepared.
Me, the loner in the class.
Because I hanged myself, there was no sign of a struggle.
All the evidence would point to suicide...!
Hey, just die.
If Rina-chan really wanted to kill me, then all she had to do was watch.
At least show me some thing fu*
That's all you're good for
My life was always in her hands.

I WAS ALWAYS SO AFRAID THAT I WOULDN'T WAKE UP AGAIN.

WHENEVER I CRAWLED OUT FROM THE DARKNESS...

MIYOSHI-SAN!
I WOULD SEE RINA-CHAN'S GRINNING FACE...
...SAN
...

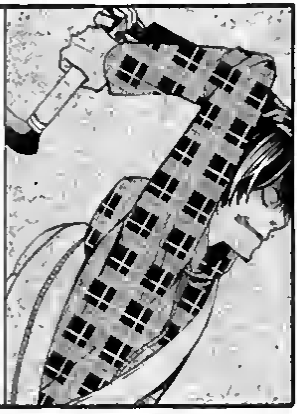
I'M...
I'M SO GLAAAD!
whew
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT NOT WAKE UP...
AH, SHE'S AWAKE!
TO BE HONEST... I THOUGHT IT WAS IM-POSSIBLE. CONGRATS
CONGRATS ON SAVING HER.
HUH? I...
I'M GLAD YOU'RE ALRIGHT, MIYOSHI-CHAN.
I TOLD YOU I WASN'T SERIOUS ABOUT KILLING HER, RIGHT?
.....!
I JUST PRETENDED TO.
IT'S OKAY
I TIED HIM UP WITH THE ROPE HE HAD ON HIM

CAN YOU WALK, MIYOSHI-SAN?
EH? AH, YES.
YOU'VE GOTTEN ALL FRIENDLY DID THAT DIFFICULT EXPERIENCE BRING YOU TOGETHER?
I MIGHT JUST BE LIKE CUPID.
...YOU WON'T GET FOUND IF YOU KEEP QUIET.
WHAT YOU DO NEXT IS UP TO YOU.
SLAM
AH!
HEY... WAIT!
ARE YOU REALLY JUST GOING TO LEAVE HIM LIKE THAT?

I'M SURE HE'LL COME AND ATTACK YOU AGAIN IF HE GETS FREE.
HE... MIGHT DO THAT
BUT IT'S BETTER THIS WAY. I CAN'T KILL SOMEONE, NO MATTER WHAT THE REASON.
KILL!
KILL!
KILL!
KILL!
AND... REMEMBERING IT SENDS A SHIVER DOWN MY SPINE.
THAT STRANGE ATMOSPHERE...
CLANG

HAND OVER THE ROPE RIGHT NOW!
CRUMBLE
THE ROPE...
HUH?
BECAUSE I MISSED, NO ONE GOT HURT.
BUT STILL...
BUT THOSE WERE JUST AFTERTHOUGHTS.
FOR ONE MOMENT, AND IT REALLY WAS JUST ONE MOMENT...
THERE ARE SO MANY POSSIBLE EXCUSES.
BECAUSE MIYOSHI-SAN WAS ALMOST KILLED AND BECAUSE I WANTED TO PROTECT MYSELF. I LET THE PEOPLE IN THE CHATROOM LEAD ME ON

I WAS IN A SITUATION WHERE I COULD KILL, AND I HAD A WEAPON. I KNEW THAT WHEN I SWUNG MY ARMS DOWN.

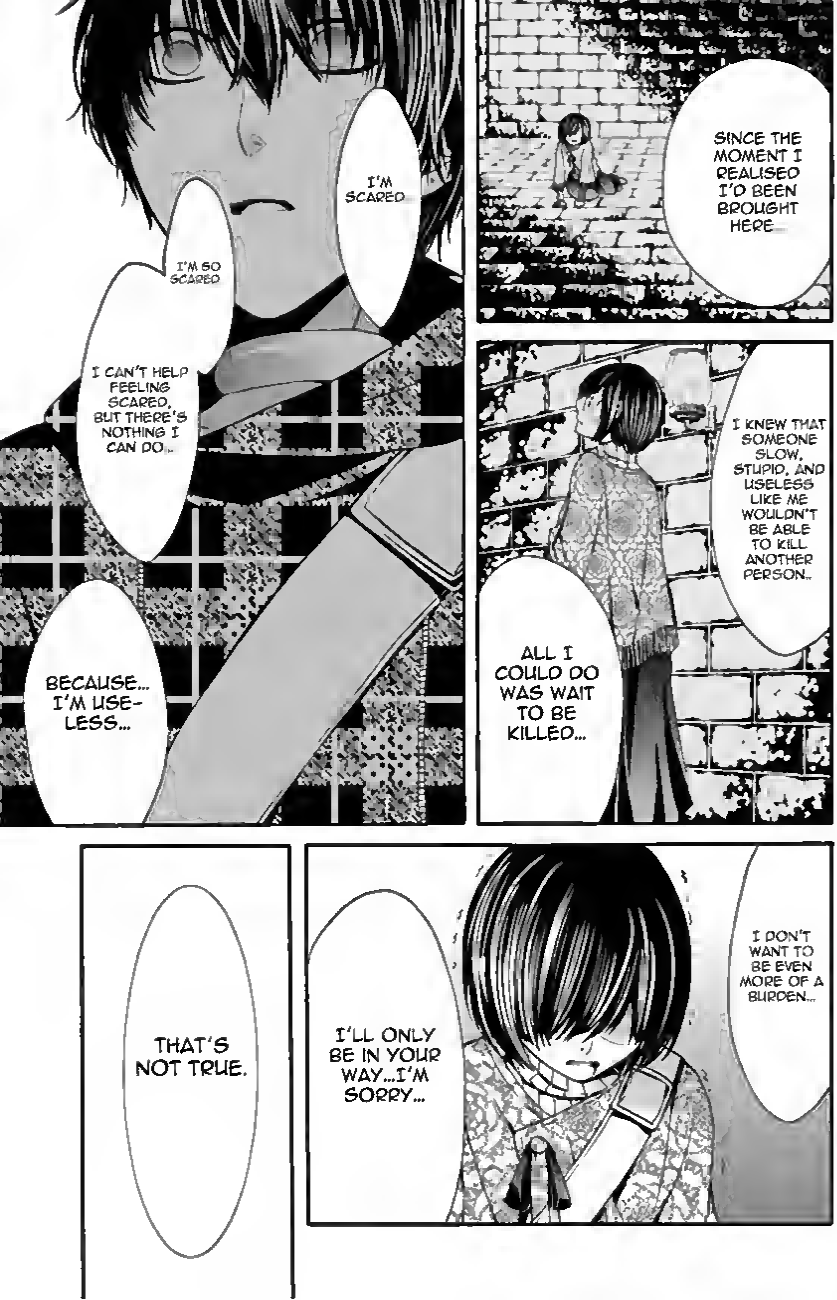


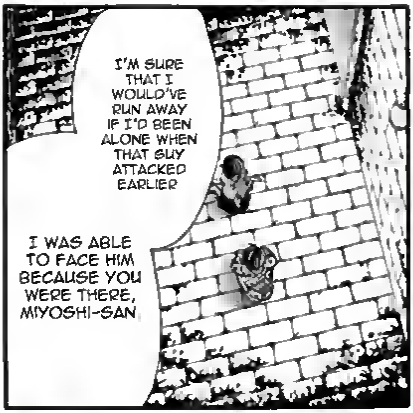
IT'S NOT LIKE I HAVEN'T WISHED FOR SOMEONE TO DISAPPEAR BEFORE,

BUT WHAT HAPPENED EARLIER WAS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT.

IT'S SCARY...
I'M SURE THAT'S WHAT'S CALLED "THE URGE TO KILL".
KILLING OTHER PEOPLE ISN'T RIGHT. I WAS SURE I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO ACCEPT KILLING SOMEONE ELSE,
BUT EVEN SOMEONE WHO FEELS THAT WAY CAN BE MADE TO THINK KILLING IS ACCEPTABLE IN THIS ATMOSPHERE...

MIYOSHI-SAN?!
SLUMP
PLEASE LEAVE ME BEHIND.
ARE YOU OKAY?!
I'M SORRY FOR MAKING YOU DO TOO MUCH WHEN YOU'VE ONLY JUST REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS..
I BECAME A BURDEN RIGHT AWAY AND YOU ENDED UP IN DANGER..
SORRY.. EVEN THOUGH YOU OFFERED TO HELP ME OUT..
HUH?
I'LL.. STAY HERE BY MYSELF.


I'M SCARED...
I'M SO SCARED
I CAN'T HELP FEELING SCARED, BUT THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO...
BECAUSE... I'M USE-LESS...
SINCE THE MOMENT I REALISED I'D BEEN BROUGHT HERE...
I KNEW THAT SOMEONE SLOW, STUPID, AND USELESS LIKE ME WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO KILL ANOTHER PERSON..
ALL I COULD DO WAS WAIT TO BE KILLED...
I DON'T WANT TO BE EVEN MORE OF A BURDEN...
I'LL ONLY BE IN YOUR WAY...I'M SORRY...
THAT'S NOT TRUE.

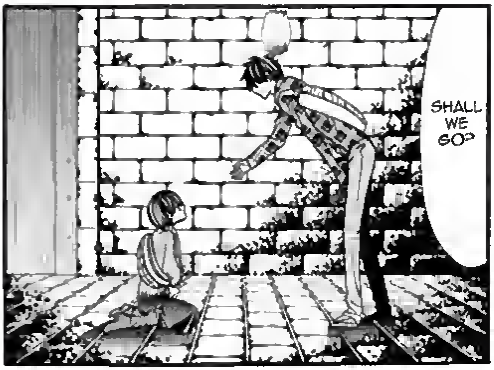

I'M SURE THAT I WOULD'VE RUN AWAY IF I'D BEEN ALONE WHEN THAT GUY ATTACKED EARLIER
I WAS ABLE TO FACE HIM BECAUSE YOU WERE THERE, MIYOSHI-SAN.

I DIDN'T KNOW THAT HAVING SOMEONE WHO SHARED MY FEAR WOULD BE THIS RE-ASSURING.

THANK YOU.

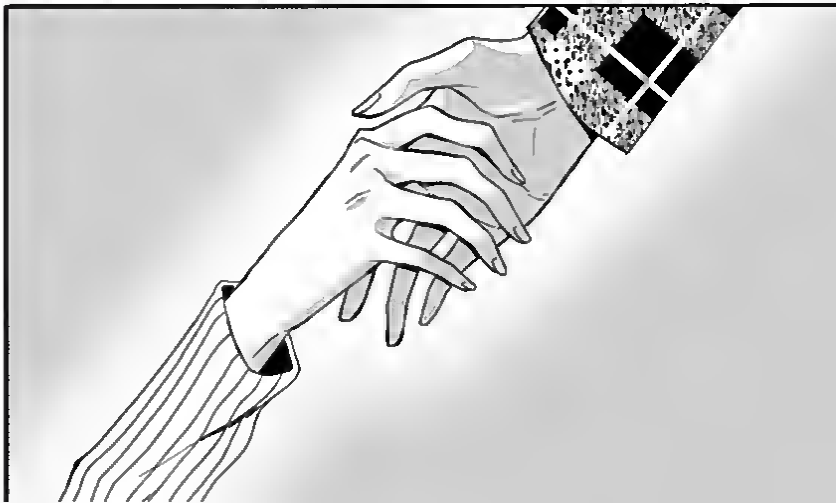
I'M GLAD YOU'RE HERE.

BLUSH
.....
Huh?
YOUR FACE IS BRIGHT RED... ARE YOU OKAY?
S-SORRY
THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME SOMEONE'S SAID SOMETHING LIKE THAT TO ME


SHALL WE GO?

COME ON

YOU'RE UNCOM-FORTABLE WITH THIS KIND OF THING
...AH, I'M SORRY.



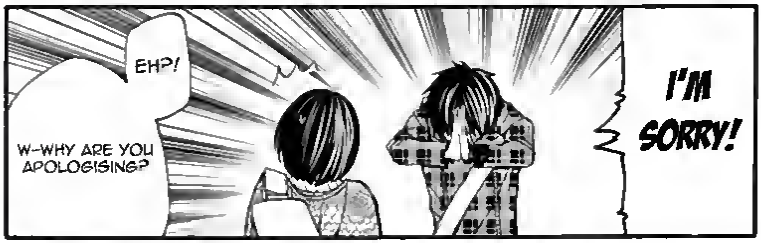
..OKAY..

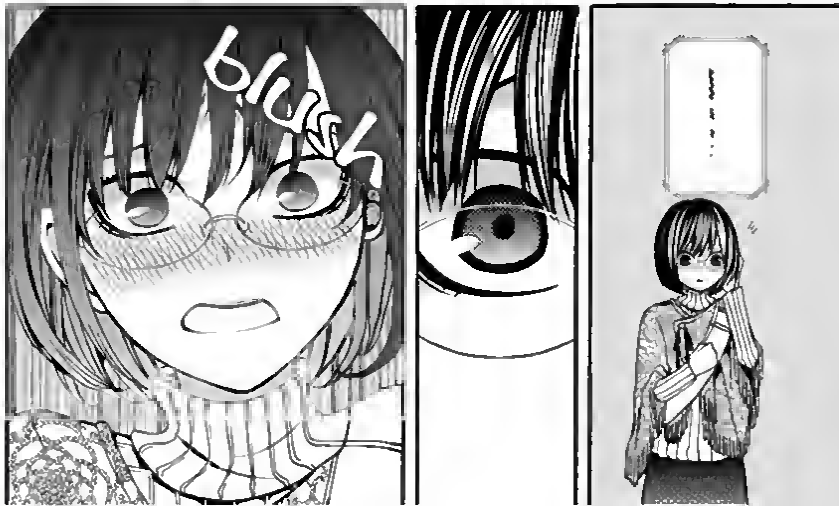
THE DIFFICULT EXPERIENCE REALLY DID BRING THEM TOGETHER LOL
A FLAG GOT TRIGGERED!
HMM? DOESN'T THAT GIRL SEEM KINDA CUTE?
DON'T THOSE TWO LOOK GOOD TOGETHER?

..THERE'S SOME BLOOD ON YOUR LIP TOO, MOCHIZUKI-SAN.

EH?
AH.. YOU'RE RIGHT.
AH, MIYOSHI-SAN. THERE'S BLOOD COMING FROM YOUR MOUTH. MAYBE YOU GOT A CUT EARLIER.. ARE YOU OKAY?

HUH? I DON'T HAVE A CUT THOUGH...
IT MUST BE FROM WHEN YOU RESUSCI-TATED HER.
blush


I'M SORRY!
EH?!
W-WHY ARE YOU APOLOGISING?


blush

I-IT'S NOT LIKE THAT! YOU'D STOPPED BREATHING, SO THE PEOPLE IN THE CHATROOM TOLD ME TO RESUSCITATE YOU!
SHOUTA-KUN, YOU PERVERT...
AH, SHE FOUND OUT THAT HE KISSED HER LOL
tremble tremble tremble
.....!!
HE'S NO LONGER HER SAVIOUR LOL
NOW HE'S JUST A PERVERT WHO KISSED AN UNCONSCIOUS GIRL LOL
UMM... I'M SORRY, I DID SOMETHING UNNECESSARY...
N-NO... UMM...
THAT'S NOT THE PROBLEM!
WELL, HE WAS PINCHING HER NOSE SO IT DIDN'T LOOK ROMANTIC AT ALL
ARE YOU SERIOUS?!
THESE DAYS MOST PEOPLE USE HANDS-ONLY CPR INSTEAD OF MOUTH-TO-MOUTH RESUSCITATION

I MEAN...I'M SORRY YOU HAD TO DO THAT FOR SOMEONE LIKE ME...
EH?!
NO, NO, NO!
DEPRESSED
IF YOU HADN'T BEEN THERE... I WOULDN'T BE STANDING HERE NOW
THANK YOU VERY MUCH
twitch
HUH? MIYOSHI-SAN...?

GASP
はっ

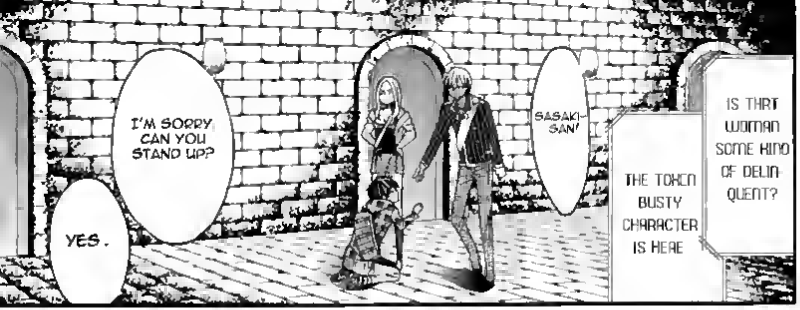
GET AWAY FROM HERE, MIYOSHI-SAN!
SOMEONE SUDDENLY APPEARED FROM BEHIND...!
!!
WHOOSH
A WOMAN?!
HUH...

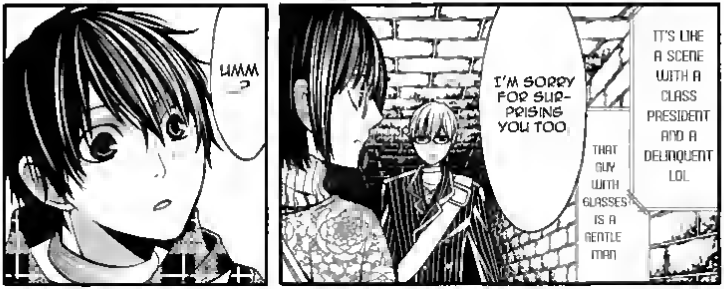
WHOA!
STAGGER
GRAB
SLAM

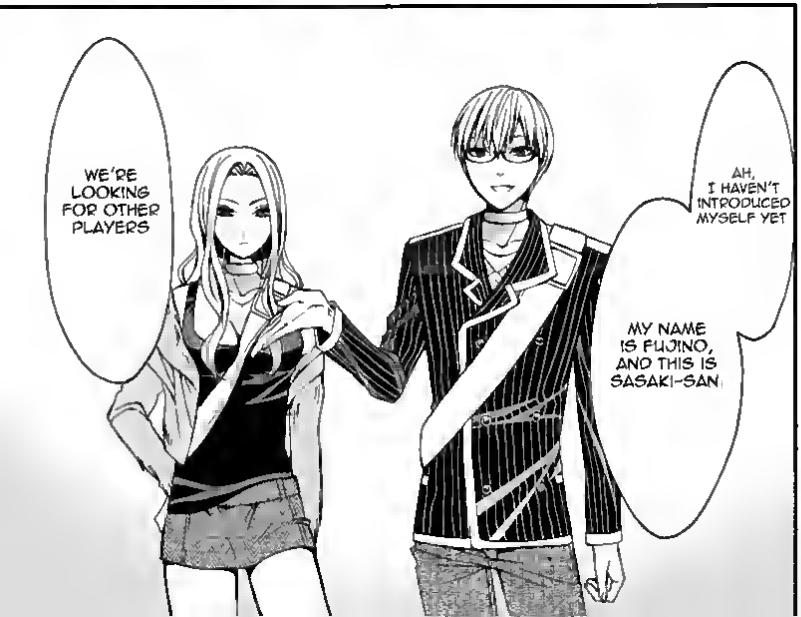
I'LL STAB YOU IF YOU MOVE
HE GOT TAKEN DOWN SO EASILY!
WHOA! THAT WOMAN'S SO STRONG!
YOU! STAY WHERE YOU ARE!

WHY ARE YOU BLEEDING?
OH? SHE DIDN'T TRY TO KILL HIM RIGHT AWAY?
...I GOT ATTACKED BY ANOTHER PLAYER
IS SHE GOING TO GET SOME INFORMATION OUT OF HIM FIRST?
AND WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT PLAYER?
DID YOU KILL HIM?
OF COURSE NOT!
WE JUST RAN AWAY FROM HIM...!
SASAKI-SAN!

!?
YOU SHOULDN'T RUN OFF SO SUDDENLY
WE ONLY WANT TO TALK TO HIM, SO THERE'S NO NEED TO USE FORCE
wave
wave
IT'S BETTER TO MAKE THE FIRST MOVE BECAUSE WE NEVER KNOW HOW THE OTHER PERSON WILL REACT ANYWAY, IT MAKES SENSE TO BE WARY OF SOMEONE WHOSE HAND IS COVERED IN BLOOD
whack
I THOUGHT HE WAS IN TROUBLE, BUT THAT DOESN'T SEEM TO BE THE CASE?
THINGS ARE LOOKING DESPERATE OH?
YOU'VE GOT TO BE MORE PREPARED IF YOU WANT TO PROTECT THAT GIRL
IT'S NO GOOD IF YOU GET TAKEN DOWN THAT EASILY
OWW!
BEING WARY DOESN'T MEAN YOU NEED TO BE VIOLENT
AH... OKAY, OKAY


I'M SORRY, CAN YOU STAND UP?
YES.
SASAKI-SAN!
THE TOKEN BUSTY CHARACTER IS HERE
IS THAT WOMAN SOME KIND OF DELINQUENT?


UMM...?
I'M SORRY FOR SURPRISING YOU TOO.
THAT GUY WITH GLASSES IS A GENTLE MAN
IT'S LIKE A SCENE WITH A CLASS PRESIDENT AND A DELINQUENT LOL


WE'RE LOOKING FOR OTHER PLAYERS
AH, I HAVEN'T INTRODUCED MYSELF YET
MY NAME IS FUJINO, AND THIS IS SASAKI-SAN.

SO WE CAN WORK TOGETHER TO STOP THIS MURDEROUS GAME
!!

!
I SEE

STOP THE GAME ?
WHAT WILL THEY DO ABOUT PLAYERS WHO ARE ARMED ?!

THAT'S RIGHT
IF THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO REFUSE TO KILL ANYONE ELSE, THEN YOU COULD STOP THE PEOPLE WHO ARE WILLING TO KILL

IT'S BETTER TO INCREASE OUR NUMBERS FOR OUR OWN DEFENCE.
WE'RE AT A DISADVANTAGE BECAUSE WE DON'T USE FORCE.
WE'D LIKE TO WORK TOGETHER WITH YOU TWO
HOW ABOUT IT?
AL-RIGHT!
NOD

I'M GOING TO TAKE A BATH
ME TOO

I'M GLAD... WE FOUND SOME PEOPLE WE CAN WORK WITH.
RIGHT... NOT EVERY-ONE HAS THE INTENTION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE GAME.

WELL, I GUESS THIS KIND BE SCENE IS NECESSARY
HAVING THESE DEVELOP MENTS EVERY SINGLE TIME IS SO BORING.
IT'S SO ANNOY ING.
HUH?
HUH?

SHOCK
THIS DOESN'T EVEN HAVE A SCRIPT!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
THERE HAVEN'T BEEN ANY BLOODY SCENES IN THE SCRIPT FOR A WHILE, RIGHT?
WE ARE PAYING TO WATCH THIS, SO MAKE THINGS MORE EXCITING

EVERYONE'S SAYING THAT THE SHOW IS PROBABLY SCRIPTED
WHAT DID THEY MEAN BY "SCRIPT"...?
UMM...
AH...
HUH?
THIS HAPPENS DEPRESSINGLY OFTEN...
UMM WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
...?
DIDN'T YOU THINK SOMETHING LIKE THAT WHEN YOU SAW THE BROADCAST?
"I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY'RE REALLY KILLING EACH OTHER..."

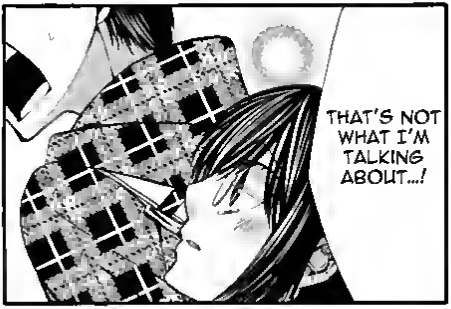
A LIVE GAME WHERE THE OPINIONS OF THE VIEWERS CAN CHANGE WHAT HAPPENS... THE "BLOODY JUNKIE" CHANNEL, WHICH IS BROADCAST ON A PAID STREAMING SITE.
IT REALLY DOESN'T SOUND FAMILIAR TO YOU?
HUH?!
ARE YOU SERIOUS? I'VE NEVER HEARD OF ANYONE WHO HASN'T.
COULD IT BE THAT...YOU HAVEN'T SEEN THE BROADCAST BEFORE?
I SEE...
I THOUGHT THAT ALL THE PLAYERS WERE VIEWERS OF THE GAME BUT I SUPPOSE THERE ARE SOME EXCEPTIONS.
THE FIRST TIME I HEARD ABOUT IT WAS WHEN THE PEOPLE IN THE CHATROOM MENTIONED IT.
HAVE YOU ALL SEEN IT BEFORE?
U-UMM...
EH?
AH.
DON'T TELL ME YOU HAVEN'T SEEN IT EITHER?

SHUDDER
YOU'RE SO ANNOY-ING!
HURRY UP AND SAY IT!
I...
I...
irritated

OH, I'M SO JEALOUS THAT YOU'RE COVERING FOR HER...
IF SHE JUST KEEPS QUIET AND LOOKS DOWN, GUYS WILL DEAL WITH THINGS FOR HER
HEY, WAIT A MINUTE! THERE'S NO NEED TO SPEAK TO HER LIKE THAT...

tremble
tremble
tremble
WHAT'S THAT OLD HAG DOING TO MY MIYOSHI-CHAN?
THAT CRAZY WOMAN FREAKS ME OUT
HEY...

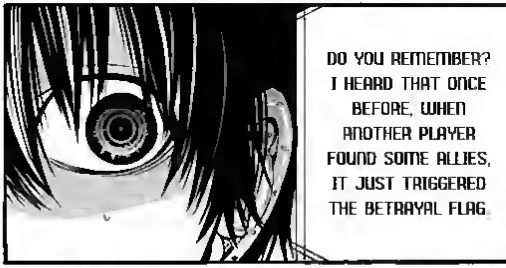
THAT'S ENOUGH


THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT...!

THERE'S NO POINT IN ARGUING ABOUT IT
IT'S NOT THAT IMPORTANT WHETHER SHE'S HEARD OF IT OR NOT

U-UMM... I'M SORRY...
HUH? THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO APOLOGISE.
I'M SORRY
THERE'S NO NEED TO BE.
A CRITICAL SITUATION LOL
I THOUGHT THEY'D END UP FIGHTING
THE GUY WITH GLASSES IS GOOD LOOKING. HE'LL DIE RIGHT AWAY
THERE ARE OTHER PEOPLE IN YOUR GROUP?!
YES, WE SPLIT UP INTO TWO GROUPS SO WE COULD FIND MORE ALLIES
THERE ARE THREE OTHER MEMBERS
WE'VE FOUND SOME ALLIES, SO WE SHOULD PROBABLY GO MEET UP WITH NIKAIDO-SAN FOR NOW.
YOU'RE RIGHT
HUH...

BETRAYAL BY YOUR ALLIES.



THIS KIND OF DEVELOPMENT PRETTY MUCH HAPPENS EVERY TIME YOU KNOW?
ONLY A FREAK WOULD HAVE SEEN THIS BROADCAST.
HOW ABOUT I TELL YOU WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN NEXT?

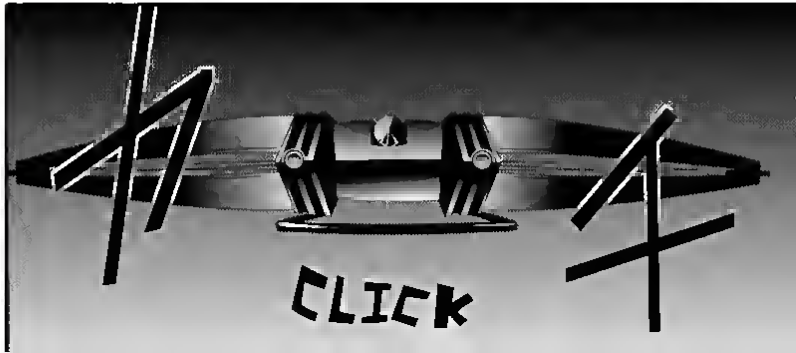
ISN'T IT IMPOSSIBLE WITHOUT A KNIFE?
MAYBE YOU COULD RUB IT AGAINST THE WALL AND WAIT FOR IT TO TEAR?
THAT'D TAKE YEARS!
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO TAKE IT OFF IF MY HANDS ARE TIED FROM BEHIND?!
YOU GUYS CAN USE THE INTERNET, SO LOOK IT UP FOR ME.
rub
rub
UGH...
I CAN'T UNDO IT..!
AH, GOOD IDEA! THAT'S THE MOST REALISTIC ONE!
WOULDN'T IT BE EASIER TO USE YOUR TEETH TO UNTIE THE ROPE THAT'S ATTACHED TO THE LAMP?
whoosh

OWW
...!

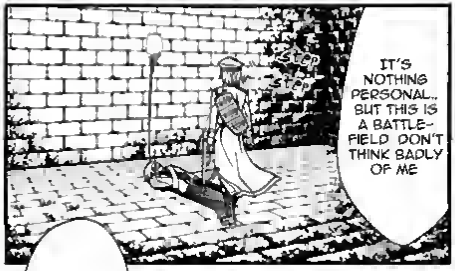
AN ARROW!
SOMEONE'S TARGETING YOU!
W-WHAT WAS THAT?!

BANG

gasp
FROM WHERE ...?!


CLICK

THUD


IT'S NOTHING PERSONAL.. BUT THIS IS A BATTLE-FIELD DON'T THINK BADLY OF ME

I HOPE YOU'LL BE AT PEACE IN THAT WORLD..

UGH

THE ENEMY HAS BEEN SILENCED
WHOA! IT WAS A DIRECT HIT!
WHOA, HE HIT HIS TARGET! CONGRATS!
HE'S PRETTY GOOD

BLOODY JUNKIE
H-HEHE...YOU FOOLS. I'VE WALKED OVER HUNDREDS OF BATTLEFIELDS THERE'S NO WAY I'D BE SCARED OF A CORPSE
CLENCH
MAYBE HE WAS SURPRISED AT HOW GROSS IT WAS LOL
HEY LOL WASN'T HE ABOUT TO PUKE JUST NOW? LOL
DON'T PUKE
.....
THANKS BE TO GOD!
AND FOR GIVING ME THIS HOLY BOW!
FOR BESTOWING ME UPON THIS BATTLE-FIELD!
NO, THAT'S JUST AN ORDINARY CROSSBOW LOL
IT'S OBVIOUSLY MANMADE

I'LL RISK MY LIFE
TO WIN THIS GAME!
NEW PLAYER WHO GETS A THRILL FROM KILLING...!
To be continued
8 / 2